

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
Air Team Report
 Week of April 9, 2018

Hearings/Mark Ups/Regulations

- The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety will hold a subcommittee hearing entitled, “*Cooperative Federalism Under the Clean Air Act: State Perspectives*” on April 10 at 10am. No EPA witnesses.

Meetings/Briefings/Roll-outs

- On April 2nd, EPA withdrew the previous Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for model year (MY) 2022-2025 light-duty vehicles issued by the agency in January 2017. The Agency made a new Final Determination that the standards were not appropriate in light of the record before EPA and should be revised to be less stringent.
- On April 2, the Energy Star program announced the 2017 Energy Star Partners of the Year. There are 163 ENERGY STAR partners in 35 states honored for demonstrating national leadership in cost-saving energy efficient solutions. Information was sent to all RCLs.
- On April 6, the Administrator is expected to sign the final decision on the regular review of the primary, or health-based, National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for oxides of nitrogen (NOx), retaining the existing 1-hour and annual standards. EPA previously proposed retaining the NOx NAAQS last summer. There are no monitors in the country indicating non-attainment with the existing standards. We plan to notify members’ offices on HEC and SEPW, and do not expect it to garner a lot of attention. For more information, see: [HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/no2-pollution/primary-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-nitrogen-dioxide>"].
- As early as Friday, EPA may issue its final decision on CT’s petition under section 126 of the Clean Air Act for Brunner Island power plant emitting pollutants that contribute to the state’s non-attainment for the ozone NAAQS. EPA issued a proposed denial February 22. We plan to notify the CT delegation when it is posted on the web.
- As early as next week, the Agency may post this year’s Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, which provides comprehensive information on national-level emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride going back to 1990. The report, compiled annually since 1993, is due by April 15 of each year as part of the U.S. treaty obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A draft of the report was published in the Federal Register February 7th for a 30-day public comment.
- We are working to provide another round of technical assistance to Rep. Rice’s office on their bill to provide exemptions to other solid waste incinerators owned and operated by law enforcement to dispose of collected pharmaceuticals.
- We are fielding a general constituent question passed along by Rep. Huizenga’s staff on the Urban Air Toxics program.

Legislation of Interest

- None.